

From: BillMeelater
To: DOJ
Date: 1/2/02 2:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement - Public Comment

Dear DOJ,

I think the settlement between Microsoft and the DOJ is fair and I believe it is in the best interest of consumers, the country and Microsoft to get on with the business of business and stop this seemingly endless litigation.

Perhaps I am missing something, but as a computer software and hardware consumer for over 20 years, I still fail to see how I've been hurt by the Microsoft Corporation. I have never felt cheated by, or felt forced to buy just their products. They are competitively priced and function very well considering the nature of computers and software.

I think it's safe to say that in this case, the governments actions against Microsoft have slowed a great company's progress towards further enabling consumers, businesses, government, etc. from becoming more productive and efficient. Ironically, the DOJ has done more to hurt people who own Microsoft stock than Microsoft will ever do to stockholders or consumers.

While I agree that a big company such as Microsoft can intimidate other start ups and crush competition, one should realize that business, like nature itself, has a natural order and rhythm. At some point in time, Microsoft won't be the 'big gorilla' on the block. In the meantime, by having almost a standard operating system for computers in general, we all benefit from increased productivity. Again, after the big phone company breakup, and the disappearance of a common long distance carrier, it was (and still is) tough to make long distance calls from phones you don't own.

If you've dealt with computers for any length of time, the nightmare doubles in scope without standards in place.

Forgive the rambling. Let's get back to work doing something constructive.

The country's economy is not well, and we need to end what I consider somewhat of a - 'witch hunt', brought on largely by a few jealous competitors. I repeat - as a consumer of operating systems, browsers, office suites, etc., I have never felt cheated by Microsoft's products.

Sincerely,
Bill Braun
Colorado